

The Bethel Courier.

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BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Eva M. Bean (left) with unidentified woman, 1965. Photo courtesy of Kathleen S. Bean.

EVA M. BEAN: A CENTENARY PORTRAIT

Eva Marion Bean was born in East Bethel, July 11, 1895, the daughter of Eugene Sue and Ella Brown Bean. She attended East Bethel schools, graduated from Gould Academy in 1913 and Colby College in 1917. She received her R.N. from Presbyterian Hospital in New York in 1922.

Following her nursing training, she went to Paris, France, where she taught nursing. Later, she returned to Portland, Maine, where she was supervisor of nurses at Maine General Hospital. Her next position was as private nurse and governess for the J.M. Andrews family in Akron, Ohio, owners of the Quaker Oats Company.

With the onset of rheumatoid arthritis in the 1930s, which meant that every day was constant pain, she was forced to retire from regular employment in 1934. A disability insurance allowed her to devote the remainder of her life to historical research and writing.

As the longtime secretary of the Gould Academy Alumni Association, she worked on the history of the Academy with great dedication and enthusiasm. Much of her work is incorporated into the history completed by Francis Parkman in 1976.

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FAMILIAR SCENES, INTERESTING TRIVIA, AND RECOLLECTIONS RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF THE BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH

Editor's Note: An article on the history of the Bethel Methodist Church by Don and Arlene Brown appeared in the Winter 1993 and the Spring 1994 issues of the Courier.

This is the third and final installment of that history, which was originally presented at a Society meeting in July 1993.

Millie Wentzell remembers the Easter Sunday when Milan Chapin sang "The Holy City." He had a beautiful voice, which left a lasting impression. Many remember Eugenia Haselton and her brother, Charles, singing duets. A familiar sight, each Sunday for many years, was of the H.I. Bean, L.E. Davis, Grover, and Wheeler families, sitting in their usual places, on the side of the church near the windows. The memory of the collection being taken is vivid in what, from a child's point of view, looked like an upside-down velvet hat on a stick. On winter Sundays, Fred Gordon wearing his large overshoes, always took his seat near the back. Erland Wentzell remembers stoking the wood furnace with slabs and edgings, and in retrospect, wonders why the church didn't burn down. He also remembers turning the crank to operate the reed organ when there was no electricity.

From Edna York comes this anecdote of her younger years. One night after evening prayer service, she and her parents were leaving the church right behind Mr. and Mrs. Alanson Tyler. Mrs. Tyler, a jolly plump little woman, lost her footing on the ice, sat down abruptly and slid the whole length of the front walk with her husband running along beside her. Edna, being young, found the incident very funny and broke into laughter, which shocked her parents greatly. She was reprimanded all the way home, and sent the next day to apologize to Mrs. Tyler, her neighbor who, by the way, was not upset by it, nor hurt in the fall.

Former Bethel Band members may remember when Rev. Murchie Gordon played the alto horn in the band, and, one year the band played at the Norway (Oxford County) Fair. At a break from playing at the races, we could walk around the midway and see the sights. A barker, in front of one of the girlie show tents was calling loudly, "Have you seen Stella?" When we all got back to the band stand, Rev. Gordon, with a twinkle in his eye, said, "Say (his favorite expression), have you seen Stella?"

Eldon Greenleaf has never forgotten the gentle but effective reprimand the Junior Choir (of which he was a

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In 1959, she published *East Bethel Road*, a model of local history and a genuine labor of love. She wrote the book to raise money to fence in Bartlett Cemetery in East Bethel.

With the publication of her book, her next step was founding the Bethel Historical Society, in which she served as the first secretary. It was a tough job keeping the fledgling organization going, but her strong will and commanding presence helped it survive those difficult early years.

She died suddenly on October 18, 1969 while working on a history of Oxford County. She left her body to science. What was left was cremated and her ashes scattered in Bartlett Cemetery. In 1984, a plaque honoring Eva was placed in that cemetery during a special ceremony.

At the April 6, 1995 monthly meeting of the Society, there were several commentaries read about Eva Bean in this centennial year of her birth. Margaret Joy Tibbetts wrote this tribute, published in 1974 to celebrate the dedication of the Dr. Moses Mason House as the Society's official headquarters:

"Most of us do not think of Eva only in terms of her work, however. She was one of those friends whom we miss more each day. She had a splendid and admirable character with a warm, generous, and open spirit. She was positive and strong minded, but she was always kind and always just. Her sense of humor was constant and her wit was sharp and never malicious. Often I catch myself thinking what fun it would be to talk something over with Eva. How she would have laughed to hear that the Bowdoin College Librarian had urged me to read her book, or how she would cut through to the essentials in discussing a local historical tangle. How proud she would be to see the Historical Society in the Moses Mason House! How we wish she were here!

Terribly crippled by arthritis, Eva never complained of her continuous pain or permitted her courage to flag. It was extra-ordinarily difficult for her to drag herself up Bethel's hills or over the uneven ground of our old cemeteries. Cold and rainy days were almost unbearable, but in her spirit Eva had conquered pain and fatigue. She was a tall, strong-featured woman with beautiful dark red hair and a wide lovely smile. She loved to go for rides around the rural back roads although getting in and out of an automobile could be torture for her. A fine cook, she fed her friends to the point at which health was endangered by gluttony. It was not unusual to pay a casual visit to Eva

EDITOR'S CORNER

This issue contains an article commemorating the centenary of Eva Bean's birth. All Society members should be grateful for all her work in promoting Bethel's history and founding the Bethel Historical Society. How pleased I think she would be to see what started very tentatively in 1966 is now firmly rooted as a major center for the study of the history of western Maine and the White Mountains. As we face the new challenges ahead it is perhaps instructive to look back and reacquaint ourselves with the days when Eva and her small band of enthusiastic volunteers set out to found an organization that has made a difference.

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and come home with four boxes of fudge and a dozen cookies.

One of Eva's most characteristic attributes was her loyalty. Nothing could shake her fierce and deep allegiances to the institutions of this area. For Eva, Gould Academy was always the finest school in the world and Bethel, particularly East Bethel, the finest place in the world to live. Working on the History of Gould Academy was a labor of both pride and love to her, and it is a source of pleasure that her research will be incorporated in the work on Gould History presently in progress by Dr. Francis Parkman. I remember once standing with Eva to admire the beautiful view up the river over Robert Hastings' intervalle lands; for Eva the view was even more beautiful because the Hastings family were her friends.

She knew the limitations of the early settlers because she had dug deeply into the materials of their lives. She knew that many were poor, some were ignorant, some were shiftless. But she respected and loved them all because she recognized that each and every one had made a contribution to Bethel's history. We are fortunate that she gave so generously of herself in helping develop in the Historical Society her own love for our local past."

Edward H. Hastings wrote the following letter to the *Bethel Citizen* following Eva's death in 1969:

"I have been deeply saddened by the news of Eva Bean's passing. There are some people we simply do not associate with either age or death. Eva was one of them. Little more than a month ago I was in her pleasant sitting room enjoying a glass of wine and conversation ranging from local news to national politics and a current Broadway show. As always, I was struck by the breadth of her interest, the sparkle of her wit, and her evident love of living. Unlike many historians, she never dwelt in the past alone. On the contrary, she was both fascinated and amused by the modern world in which she lived.

With Eva's death, a vital link with our past has been broken. Her knowledge of Bethel and Oxford County was amazing. She spoke of past generations with the easy familiarity of one who both knew and understood them. The people long buried in the graveyards she so often visited were not dead for her, and she could bring them back to life for us. Her dedication to preserving and sharing memories of days and ways long gone was complete. The book *East Bethel Road* is her personal gift to the Bethel of today and tomorrow. We are the poorer in that she did not live to complete its sequel.

I do not know who actually conceived the idea of a Bethel Historical Society, but everyone knows that Eva was its hardest worker and most enthusiastic and effective spokesman. Anyone who has ever attended meetings will remember how she exulted over each new yard of pennies which brought just a bit closer her dream of a permanent home for the records and memorabilia of early Bethel. If these yards of pennies cease to multiply and, as so often happens, the present society declines with the passing of its leading figure, we who worked with Eva will have betrayed a trust. It is for us who remain to give her dream a permanent, concrete form.

More than anyone I have known, Eva was a living symbol of courage in the face of adversity. She refused to be defeated by physical infirmities; it was as if she refused to recognize their existence. Somehow each year which brought a decrease in physical stamina served only to

sharpen her wit and increase her zest for life. I shall miss my chats with her about the Bethel that was, but even more I shall miss the bravery, the wit, the vigor which made her such an indomitable figure.

Last summer Eva and I talked about trends in modern drama and moving pictures, and in particular about the current Broadway show *Oh! Calcutta*. She was intrigued by the conflicting accounts of this controversial production and, half in jest, offered to pay my way to New York so that I could give her a first-hand account. Now a former student has invited me to the city during the Christmas holidays to see *Oh! Calcutta*. Since I seldom get to New York, I'm looking forward to the trip - but half the fun is gone: I won't be able to report back to Eva."

Barbara Hastings Honkala remembered Eva in this way:

"I came to know Eva when I was a student at Gould. In 1942, the Academy was concerned enrollment would fall drastically because of wartime gas rationing and restrictions on travel. That fall, my sophomore year, they instituted a bus service to bring students in outlying areas to school who might not have attended otherwise.

The bus I rode made a loop through Middle Intervale, East Bethel, Locke Mills, and South Bethel, filling to capacity. The school also went the extra mile and adjusted the bus schedule to accommodate students who participated in sports after classes. That winter, during basketball games, the bus stayed until after the games so we could attend, but from 3:30 till game time we were on our own. Bethel had no more to entertain teens then than it does now. Eva stepped in.

Always interested in young people and what was happening at Gould, she extended an invitation through her nephew, Francis Bean, to the bus students staying for the game, to come to her apartment for sandwiches and hot chocolate. From then on we had a standing invitation to do what she called *missionary work* at Eva's, her term for helping eat food or some tasty dessert she claimed would go to waste. Although we began to call our group *The Sponge Club* from sponging off Eva, our eagerness to go there was not just for the 'goodies.' She made us feel she had a special interest in us as individuals, drawing each of us out, speaking to us as adults. She often discussed local or national events, asking our opinions. We'd probably never given the matter a thought, but we were flattered to be asked. More than once I found myself researching a subject on my own so I'd have an opinion next time, if she asked.

So through my remaining years at Gould, Eva encouraged the visits with her. I became particularly close after my father's drowning. Eva helped our family through that terrible time by having my mother, my two brothers, and I for lunch once a week when Mother went back to teaching. During the spring break, she provided advice and encouragement as well as the quiet of her apartment as I struggled to write my grandfather's theme for David Thompson's English class. I've been studying local history and researching genealogy ever since. That same spring as we peered from her garrett window into Bethel's elm tree canopy, she taught me to identify all of the warblers feeding on the insects there. So began another lifelong hobby - identifying and watching birds wherever I've lived.

I might never have gone to college, if Eva had not approached my uncertainties with the attitude that con-

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As the Society begins its thirtieth year of existence, it may be useful to recognize the contributions of those who had a role in founding the organization we enjoy today. This issue contains an article honoring the centenary of Eva Bean's birth. Certainly no one did as much in those early days to see that the Society survived.

Starting a historical society in 1966 was a daunting task. Acquiring a headquarters could only in those days have seemed like an impossible dream. But through a series of fortunate events, it did happen.

Now the Society faces another daunting task, the securing of additional space for collections, exhibitions, and research. As this process proceeds, let us bear in mind Eva Bean's optimism, dedication and faith in the future.

Charles F. Raymond

tinuing my education was something there should be no question about in my mind. I graduated from the University of Maine, and countless times in whatever small successes I may have achieved through the years, I have thanked Eva - for being my friend, the counselor, and the teacher she was to me."

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Barbara Jean Grover Farinsky, Rolling Hills, CA
Alice C. Grady, Acton, MA
Frank and Beatrice Lowell, Newry
Edward W. MacGibbon, Palatka, FL
H. Paul McGuire, Bethel
John A. and Merrilee McMillin, Gardiner
Burton R. Mills, Bethel
David A. Nichols, Lincolnville
W. Scott Oldakowski, Bethel
Alan B. Ordway, Bridgton
Fourtin and Shirley Powell, Rockland
Edith Tucker, Randolph, NH

IN MEMORIAM

Died, 28 January 1995, Harriet S. Stowell, Bethel
Died, 24 February 1995, Olive Grover Ferguson, Exeter, NH
Died, 17 March 1995, Jeanette S. Potsaid, Hanover, MA
Died, 7 April 1995, Paul A. Judkins, Vero Beach, FL
Died, 11 April 1995, Charles Smith, Bethel
Died, 24 April 1995, Maxine C. Brown, Bethel
Died, 30 April 1995, Beverly K. Haines, Bethel

REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

(continued from the last issue)

by L.E. Davis

The year 1939 started another happening in our lives which has since become something of a habit.

In the early part of December of that year we decided to take a three week vacation trip to Florida. We enjoyed it

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SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile	\$3.50
Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes)	\$2 ea.
Moses Mason House	Bethel Railroad Station
Summer House	Bethel Covered Bridge
Booklets	
"The Family Farm"	75¢
"Made in Bethel"	75¢
"Dr. Moses Mason and His House"	\$1
"Molly Ockett"	\$2
1995 New England Calendars (Barns or Covered Bridges)	\$9.95
Maps and Atlases	
1880 Map of Bethel Hill	\$2
1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel)	\$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill	\$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County	\$7.50
Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo)	sm. \$7.50 lg. \$11.50
Placemats, 4 Season (set of four)	\$7.50
Books	
Carrie Wight, A HISTORY OF NEWRY	\$5
Hutchinson, THE RUMFORD FALLS & RANGELEY LAKES RAILROAD	\$20
BETHEL, MAINE CEMETERIES	\$9.50
Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER	\$15.95
N.F. Little, AMERICAN DECORATIVE WALL PAINTING 1700-1850	\$9.95
R. Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK	\$5
W.B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE	\$19.95
MAINE: THE PINE TREE STATE FROM PREHISTORY TO THE PRESENT	\$29.95
Bennett, THE WHITE MOUNTAINS	\$14.99
D.B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS	\$4
Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY	\$7.50
MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC	\$29.95
Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND	Paper \$22.95. Cloth \$35
Bennett, BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY	\$39.95
M.F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD	\$48
R. Crosby, I WAS A SUMMER BOARDER	\$5
Howe, MAINE GRANGE HISTORY	\$19.95
Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES	\$5
Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD	\$50
R.H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE	\$18
William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890	\$45
T-Shirts	
Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$8
Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$7
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$8
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$7
Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason, Moses Mason House	10¢ ea.

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail. If you have questions, please call toll free: 1-800-824-2910.

(L.E. Davis Memoirs, continued from page 3)

very much. We came down the East Coast after spending nearly a day in Washington, D.C., which was well worth while. In Florida we came down Route 1 as far as Daytona Beach and then went diagonally across the state through Deland, Orlando, Winter Haven then south as far as Lakeland, Okeechobee, into the sugar mill at Clewiston across Ft. Myers then worked back north up to the West Coast. We called on Arthur and Eva Herrick where they were staying at St. Petersburg, FL at the Orange Blossom Trailer Park on 15th Ave. South at 18th St. We stopped in St. Pete one or two nights and liked it there.

In addition to starting a winter vacation habit, this trip also did something else for Marie and I. It demonstrated to us that we were not nearly as important as we thought we were.

For 15 years or more we had tied ourselves so closely to our business and family that we had gotten to believe that they couldn't get along without us too well, even for a short time. In fact, on the way down, I telephoned back home from North Carolina to see how they were getting along. It came almost as a shock to me that everything was O.K., and when we finally got home from this trip after being gone about three weeks, everyone was glad to see us, but hadn't missed us nearly as much as we expected they would, and our business had gone along fully as well and perhaps better than it would have if we hadn't gone.

We made a similar trip in December of 1941 except that we came directly to the west coast of Florida and spent two or three days in Lakeland and two or three in St. Petersburg instead of moving around as much as we did on the first trip. We had hoped to stay longer on this trip but of course the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7th 1941 had brought the United States into World War II and all businesses were needed to do all they could in the war effort.

As I look back over the generation covered by this story I believe that the years from about 1936 or 1937 through 1940 or 1941 were about the best for the average man in our State of Maine at least. Wages for ordinary labor were about \$4 to \$4.50 per day for a 5½ day week, jobs were plentiful, semi-skilled and skilled labor got about \$1 to \$1.50 per day more than ordinary labor, taxes were low and living costs very reasonable. There was no sales tax, no income tax on incomes of under \$2500 per year and the rate above \$2500 per year started at 4%.

Good rents were available for \$12 to \$16 per month.

Ford and Chevrolet automobiles could be bought brand new for about \$685 to \$800 and groceries were very reasonable in price.

During this period I hired Herbert Swan and his helper Gard Bennett and built quite a few houses. We built one at Locke Mills on "Crazy Knoll" for Belle and Ray Conant, of 4 rooms and bath, (but they had the bathroom fixtures installed on their own expense) for \$840. We built one at Bryant Pond for Eldon and Barbara Hathaway, 4 rooms and bath with porch and we completely installed the electrical system and bathroom and an automatic pump water system and furnished all the materials for \$1100.

We built a house of 4 rooms and bathroom, but no bathroom fixtures, with a porch and garage on the Annis farm on the Middle Intervale road and sold it with 2 acres of land to Roger Foster for \$1200 on a no-down payment basis and monthly payments of \$16.

The house where Guy Rice lives (later owned by Malcolm Mundt and his wife Edith Rice Mundt) had been partly built by Ernest "Digger" Brinck and we bought it when he moved somewhere else and finished it with five rooms with bath and basement garage and sold it to Guy Rice for \$1300 with no down payment, but weekly payments of \$4.

On these deals with no down payment we charged 9% interest until the principal was reduced one third, and 6% interest until the principal was 2/3 paid and 3% on the balance, and it worked out very well. We built a camp on South Pond below Locke Mills for Ralph King and his wife, and probably a few others that I don't have in mind right now, but am mentioning these to show what conditions were like in those years, as I made a little profit on all of these projects.

(to be continued in the next issue)

SOCIETY TO HONOR MEMORY OF ANNIE GOULD WITH CHINA EXHIBIT

An exhibit of photographs entitled *CHINA; EXPLORING THE INTERIOR, 1903-04* will open at the Society's Dr. Moses Mason House Meeting Room in July and will be on display until Labor Day, 1-4 P.M. every day except Monday. Admission to the exhibit is free.

This exhibit honors the memory of Annie Allender Gould, who was born in Bethel in 1867. She spent her childhood in Portland, where her father, John Mead Gould, a Gould Academy graduate and Civil War veteran, was a businessman and historian. Her mother, Amelia, was a cousin of Dr. Moses Mason and a daughter of Alphin and Roxanne Twitchell, whose portraits hang in the parlor chamber of the Dr. Moses Mason House, headquarters of the Bethel Historical Society.

Miss Gould was educated in Portland schools and in 1887 entered Mt. Holyoke Seminary (which was changed to a college while she was enrolled there). She graduated in 1892 as the valedictorian of her class.

On August 7, 1893, she left home for the city of Pao ting fu, North China, Province of Chihli, as a missionary of the American Board. She learned to speak Chinese quickly and later served as an interpreter among her many duties. She approached her work with great zeal and dedication.

During the Boxer Rebellion, she and others were beheaded and their bodies thrown into a common pit. No remains were ever returned to Bethel for burial, but a marker stands to her memory in Riverside Cemetery on the family lot: "Annie Allender Gould b. 1867 d. 1900 Missionary and Martyr."

The photos in the exhibit were taken by Maine native, R. Harvey Sargent, during a 1903-04 Carnegie Institute expedition to the remote interior of China, and are now the focus of a project co-produced by Volunteers for Geography Awareness, an ad hoc educational resource group based in Sargentville, Maine, and by the Chinese Room of the Newport (R.I.) Public Library. The project received generous support from the Maine Humanities Council. The exhibit's presence in Bethel was made possible in part with the support of the Bethel Historical Society's Hall Memorial Fund.

On August 20, Robert Sargent, grandson of the photographer R. Harvey Sargent, and Craig Dietrich, Professor of

History at the University of Southern Maine and a scholar of Chinese history, will be in Bethel to assist in honoring Annie Gould and to discuss the exhibit, Chinese history and the Boxer Rebellion. There will be a special gathering at the marker of Annie Gould in Riverside Cemetery, followed by Professor Dietrich's lecture and a reception in the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House.

This exhibit, lecture and reception are part of the Society's educational and cultural programming. For further information, please call the Society office at 824-2908 or toll free 1-800-824-2910.

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST

(as of May 1, 1995)

HONORARY

Olive Anderson, Newry; Barbara H. Brown, Bethel; Julia Brown, Bethel; Norris Brown, Bethel; Elizabeth Mason Carter, West Bethel; Rosalind R. Chapman, Bethel; Floribel Haines, Bethel; Florence Hastings, Bethel; Rodney Howe, Bethel; E. Louise Lincoln, Bethel; Frederick McMillin, Bethel; Helen Morton, Bethel; Persis Post, Bethel; Marguerite Quinn, Norway; Ranald Stevens, Bethel; Sarah Stevens, Bethel; Mildred C. Thomas, Bethel; Edmond J. Vachon, Bethel; Sudie Vachon, Bethel; Edna B. York, Bethel.

LIFE

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The former Jordan Store building on lower Main Street was demolished in 1994 to make way for a modern office building. Built by Robert A. Chapman in the 1870s, it was last used as an apartment building. Photo courtesy of Donald S. Brown.

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BOOK NOTES

The following titles are available from Heritage Books, Inc., 1540-E Pointer Ridge Place, Suite #300, Bowie, MD 20716. Shipping is \$3.50 per order.

Your Story: A Writing Guide for Genealogists, by Carla Eardley. 1994, 110 pp., illus., subject index, paper, \$11.50. #E061

This book shows family historians how to turn genealogical research into compelling stories. Bridging the gap between genealogy guides and writing manuals, *Your Story* brings the essential techniques to the realm of family writing as it guides novice writers through a basic writing project.

Writing a Regional History Book With a Committee, by Patricia Torrance. 1994, 108 pp., appendices, charts, index, paper, \$17.00. #T566

The author of this useful book discusses the pitfalls that groups are bound to encounter and offers realistic ways of getting a town or regional history book into print. Information is provided on obtaining copyrights, creating clear divisions of labor in a group, creating publicity, and

(Continued on page 10)

finding a publisher and/or printer.

Ancestors: A Teaching Story Using the Families of Cox, Hayes, Hulse, Range, Worley, and Others, With Suggested Lessons, by Helen Cox Tregillis. 1994, 122 pp., illus., index, paper, \$12.00. #T613

This book is designed for those who want to teach themselves, or others in a classroom, how to research ancestors. The book tells how to use pedigree charts, the importance of documentation, collecting and using family memorabilia, and the value of family stories. The families used as examples are those of the author, and the lessons can be adapted to suit the junior high through adult level.

What Did They Mean By That? A Dictionary of Historical Terms for Genealogists, by Paul Drake. 1994, 240 pp., paper, \$23.00. #D604

In addition to terminology, such as the names of the many court and legal processes, this excellent collection of more than 3,000 words includes many occupations, descriptions of early furniture and foods, common medical terms and herbal remedies, and many expressions, once common, yet now all but forgotten.

History of Cumberland County, Maine. With illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers, by W. W. Clayton. Two-volume reprint of 1880 work, 701 pp., 8.5x11, illus., maps, appendix, new surname index, paper, \$70.00. #C412

This nineteenth century history gives information on the county, the city of Portland, each town in the county, and biographical sketches. These sketches are rich with information such as the subject's date and place of birth, parents' names, military involvement, occupation and education, political activity, marital status, number and names of children, and their dates of birth, marriage, and deaths. The new surname index makes this work much more useful.

Stackpole's History of Winthrop, Maine, with Genealogical Notes, edited and with additions by David C. and Elizabeth Keene Young. 1994, 993 pp., 2 vols., illus., maps, bibl., index, paper, \$57.00. #Y590

This second edition of the 1925 History of this important Maine town contains important additions, including material on all of the 253 early families in the 1790 Census. Prior to 1791, Winthrop included all or part of: Readfield, Hallowell, Augusta (Harrington), Fayette (Sterling & 30 Mile River), Mt. Vernon (Washington), Manchester (Kennebec Plt.), Wayne (New Sandwich), and Monmouth (Wales). The remainder of the book is devoted to a narrative history of the town. Three new indexes complete this important work, essential for any study of the Winthrop area.

Index to Portland Newspapers, 1785-1835, by William B. Jordan, Jr. 1994, 396 pp., 8.5x11, paper, \$48.50. #J001

This index covers an important period in the history of Maine, and involves sixteen different newspapers, most of which were published in Portland. The index is designed to make the research labors of writers, historians, and genealogists easier when their area of concentration encompasses Portland and its surrounding communities. The primary emphasis is social, cultural, intellectual, economic, financial, maritime, and literary histo-

ry. Local political events of an unusual nature are also incorporated into the approximately 30,000 entries. Prominent personalities have been included along with the occasional obituary.

(Methodist Church, continued from page 1)

member) received from Rev. Gordon one Sunday. As children will, the youngsters were whispering, poking, and giggling during the pastoral prayer, until, suddenly, they realized that Mr. Gordon was praying, "Help us learn to sit still and be quiet." Quiet reigned in the choir loft for the rest of the service.

The home of Donald and Eleanor Brooks on Main Street was the Methodist Parsonage from the early 1880s until June 1923 when it was sold to George N. Sanborn. It is interesting to note that it is the oldest building on Main Street, originally the home of Marshall Bonney, standing originally on the site of the building presently owned by Keenan Auction Company at the top of the street. Acquired by Gilman Chapman in 1836, it was moved to its present location at that time.

In 1918, the church trustees were Fred N. Wood, Nelson R. Springer, Horace Annis, L. Bartlett, and Davis Lovejoy.

Familiar names appearing in a Children's Day Program of June 11, 1923 were: Elizabeth Bean, Arthur, Guy, and Gladys Gibbs, Dorothy Hutchinson, Charles and Helen Anderson, Warren Keddy, Howard and Ronald Tyler, Wilson Bartlett, Dorothea Burbank, and Beryl Brown.

In October 1924, Arlene Frances Perry, an elocutionist, performed at the church.

The officers of the Ladies Aid in 1933 were: Pres. Ada Tyler; Sec. Eugenia Haselton; Asst. Sec. Alice Capen; Treas. Millie Wentzell; Program Committee Florence Hamlin, Annie Craig, Winifred Dalzell.

In 1934, the officers of the Boys' Class (probably John Anderson's Sunday School Class) were: Arthur and Wendell Gibbs, Edwin and Stanley Brown, and Richard Davis.

One of Rev. P.J. Clifford's projects was an attendance contest with the Locke Mills Church. The results were unknown.

In 1935, Sunday School Officers were: Supt. Eugene Norton; Asst. Supt. Perry Lapham; Sec./Treas. Leston Wheeler.

In 1937, the officers of the Ladies Aid were: Minnie Capen, Mabel Greenleaf, Lettie Hall, Eugenia Haselton, Irene Hutchinson, Millie Wentzell. The Epworth League officers were: Pres. Kenneth Brooks; 1st V.P. Alfred Brown; 2nd V.P. Sylvia Bird; 3rd V.P. Eugenia Haselton; Sec./Treas. Edwin Brown, Recreation Committee, Althea Sweeney and James Brown.

The 1947 officers of the Women's Society of Christian Service (W.S.C.S.) were: Pres. Mabel Greenleaf; 1st V.P. Elsie Davis; 2nd V.P. Lottie Bartlett; Sec. Verna Dyk; Treas. Lettie Hall.

W.S.C.S. officers in 1953-54 were: Pres. Dorothy Christie; 1st V.P. Abbie Brown; 2nd V.P. Sylvia Luxton; Sec. Doris Brown; Asst. Sec. Gertrude Fossett; Treas.

Lettie Hall.

1959 officers of the W.S.C.S. Evening Circle were as follows: Chairperson, Betty Perkins; Asst. Chairperson, Arlene Walker; Sec./Treas. Barbara Greenleaf.

In the 1964 report of the Annual Church Meeting trustees were listed as follows: Wallace Saunders, Albert Buck, Alton Luxton, Ranald Stevens, Donald Brown, Sarah Stevens, Richard Davis, Earl Davis, and John Greenleaf.

Included in the list of Trustees in 1970 were: Robert Keniston, Eldon Greenleaf, and Earl Warrington.

Officers of the United Methodist Women (U.M.W.) in 1987 were Pres. Lyndell Carter; V.P. Betty Blake; Sec. Virginia Keniston; Treas. Sarah Stevens; Missions, Edna York; Sunshine Committee, Frances Saunders, Sarah Stevens, and Sylvia Clanton.

Officers of the U.M.W. in 1993 were Pres. Virginia Walker; V.P. Linda Saunders; Sec. Musa Brown; Treas. Sarah Stevens; Missions, Muriel Faudi; Sunshine Committee, Frances Saunders, Sarah Stevens, and Sylvia Clanton.

1993 Officers of the Eleanor Gordon Guild were: Pres. Peggy Wheeler; V.P. Barbara Mahler; Sec. Betty Blake; Treas. Mary Dooen.

The 1993 Budget lists the pastor's salary as \$18,300, travel expenses as \$1200, continuing education as \$150, and health insurance at \$2114.

In December 1990, each Sunday School Class decorated a banner which was rolled up, and hung from the metal rod at the front of the sanctuary. Then each Sunday of Advent one banner was unfurled and the class that made it had part of the service to tell about it. On the fifth Sunday of Advent, the 4th and 5th Grade Class went up to unroll their banner, but it didn't cooperate, and only one side would come down. As they continued with their part of the service, George Nickerson slipped quietly downstairs, found a broom handle, taped a knife to the end, and made his way to the front of the sanctuary where he

climbed on a chair and proceeded to cut the stubborn string and release the banner. Mission accomplished, he returned to his seat amid applause of the congregation, and the service continued.

A picture that always comes to mind in connection with this church is that of a familiar couple who is always there helping in one way or another at every church activity - Sarah and Ranald Stevens.

Officers for 1993 were: Administrative Board, Jane Young, chair; Recording Secretary, Sandra Wight; Treasurer, Ranald Stevens; Financial Secretary, Harold Powell and Thomas McGinniss; Trustees, Deborah Adams, chair; Pastor Parish Relations, Norman Clanton; Lay Leader, Laura Piawlock.

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

(continued from the last issue)

From the pages of the *Oxford County Advertiser*, May 14, 1886, compiled by Judge C.F. Whitman of Norway.

While at the reunion of the Fifth Maine at Portland last summer Gen. Slocum as one of its honored invited guests made a speech in which he alluded to that stolen turkey, and with a peculiar twinkle of his eye said he thought the soldier was about as much entitled to the turkey as anyone, no doubt thinking there ought to be honor among thieves. It may be asked what became of the turkey. A selection party comprising the following officers, Col. Jackson, Maj. Scamon, Dr. Brickett, Chaplain Adams and Capt. Edwards dined at the tent of the latter on that Sunday and it would be needless to remark that the turkey in question furnished the principal bill of fare.

At the close of the year several changes had taken place in the Bethel Company. S.R. Hutchens, J.B. Hammond, L.C. Beard, Sidney T. Cross, I.W. Estes, Benj. Freeman, L.W. Pratt and C.S. Heath had been discharged

(Continued on page 12)

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for disability. Nelson Rice and Orderly Sergt. D.W. Scribner erroneously given in the previous article as a Private were transferred to the gunboat service. It was also stated in that article that the fugitive slaves mentioned came into the Union lines in the vicinity of Meridien Hill. This was the writer's mistake. It was while the Bethel Company first went on picket on the 11th or 12th of July.

Charlie Freeman and W.B. Robertson were kept in Libby Prison till the latter part of the fall of '61 when they were exchanged. The former was a general favorite among the officers and men of his company and all who knew him. It has been ascertained that he was but a month or two over 12 years of age at the time he enlisted and it is claimed that he was the youngest boy ever mustered into the service from Maine if not from the North. Even while in Libby Prison he was petted by the Rebel officials and in November he was unconditionally released. He rejoined his Regt. and afterward was mustered out for disability. He is now a resident of Minnesota where for many years he was the leader of a band. As a piccolo player he is said to be as famous as Ned Kendall was a player of the bugle.

Robertson went home on furlough after being exchanged and early in the spring of '62 he returned to his company. He went through the Peninsula campaign, but before the battle of Antietam he was sent to the hospital and was finally discharged from the service. He went home and began again at his trade as a painter. Being able to work but a few hours per day, he obtained but a scanty

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living. He moved to Manchester, N.H. where he continued to live in the same way. While visiting his aged mother in Bethel after the war was over, his old commander met him on the street and seeing his condition asked him why he did not apply for a pension, as he hadn't been well since he left the Libby Prison. His reply was, "Colonel, I can earn my living. I have no one to look out for but myself and my aged mother can manage to take care of herself. I will never be called a gov't. pauper as long as I can earn my bread." He lived about ten years after this in straightened circumstances and finally was under the necessity of applying for a pension. His old commander interested himself in his behalf and affidavits were made and sent. A long time elapsed before he heard from the matter again. Finally he got a request from the Department for more evidence and he went to Bethel to procure it, but before the papers could be made and sent the soldier died a charge and a burden to his friends. So much "red tape" had worn out the soldier's life. He now sleeps in the cemetery near his early home, with not a stone or a slab to mark his last resting place.

(to be continued in the next issue)

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